

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10 EUR-12 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAJ-01 /095 W

----- 045328

R 250900Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3345

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7368

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ASEAN SN

SUBJECT: LEE KUAN YEW PRESS CONFERENCE

SINGAPORE PRIME MIISTER LEE KUAN YEW HELD A NEWS
CONFERENCE APRIL 23. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS
TRANSLATION OF THE CONFERENCE:

LEE: I HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF HEARING THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN
CAMBODIA, SOUTH VIETNAM AND LAOS AS SEEN BY YOUR PRIME MINISTER
MR. KHUKRIT PRAMOT, AND YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. CHATCHAI
CHUNHAWAN. I ALSO HAD THE SAME SITUATION EXPOUNDED TO ME FROM THE
DEFENSE POINT OF VIEW BY GENERAL KRIT SIWARA AND THE CHIEF
OF STAFF, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHUMANAN. THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT
INCLUDING THE SUPREME COMMAND, HAVE ANALYZED THE DEVELOPMENTS
AND MADE PLANS TO MEET EACH OF SEVERAL TURNS OF EVENTS.
IN THE LONGER TERM. THE LASTING SOLUTION REMAINS THE SAME.
NAMELY TO CREATE STABLE,CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITHIN ASEAN
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AND THROUGH CONSULTATIONS

AND COORDINATION OF POLICIES TO INCREASE THE SOLIDARITY OF THE GROUP.
ASSURING CONTINUING STABILITY IN THE AREA AND UNINTERRUPTED

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. EACH ASEAN COUNTRY HAS TO ENSURE
SUFFICIENT ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THAT WILL MAKE
INSURGENCY UNATTRACTIVE AND UNLIKELY TO
SUCCEED. MILITARY DEFENSE AGAINST EXTERNALLY-AIDED INSURGENCY IS
ONLY WORTH THE EFFORT AND THE COSTS IF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT TAKE PLACE. OTHERWISE, THE TIME BOUGHT WILL COME
TO NAUGHT AS IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. NOW WE SHALL ALL
HAVE TO ESTABLISH CORRECT AND IF POSSIBLE.
CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF INDOCHINA, WHETHER
THEIR GOVERNMENTS ARE COMMUNIST, OR COALITION TYPES LIKE LAOS.

QUESTION: THAT'S A VERY OPTIMISTIC STATMENT. DO YOU REALLY
BELIEVE IT?

ANSWER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VERY KIND OBSERVATION. NEXT
QUESTION, PLEASE.

QUESTION: DO YOU SEE THE NEED FOR AN EARLY SUMMIT MEETING OF
ASEAN MEMBER STATES, BASED ON THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN
INDOCHINA?

ANSWER: I DON'T THINK THERE 'S ANY REASON FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING.
THE SITUATION HAD BEEN COMING FOR SOME TIME. IT CAME WITH A
SUDDENNESS WHICH NOBODY HAD EXPECTED. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT
THIS REQUIRES EMERGENCY CONSULTATIONS. THE DUST SHOULD BE
ALLOWED TO SETTLE FIRST. AND WE CAN
THEN SEE THE WOODS FOR THE TREES.

QUESTION: WILL ASEAN RECOGNIZE HANOI TOGETHER?

ANSWER: I NEED NOTICE FOR THAT QUESTION. NEXT...

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY INDICATION YET FROM SIHANOUK'S GOVERNMENT THAT
THEY WILL ACCEPT THE ASEAN RESPONSE TOWARD RECOGNITION?

ANSWER: I KNOW NO MORE THAN WHAT YOU DO NAMELY FROM THE NEWS
AGENCIES. NEXT...
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QUESTION: THREE YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A VERY FAMOUS CONVICTED PERSON
INSISTING DOMINO THEORY. HIS NAME WAS MR. LEE, AND THESE DAYS.
IT SEEMS TO ME. HE CHANGED HIS MIND.

ANSWER: NO. WHO ARE YOU?

QUESTION: SORRY, VERY SORRY. I'M FROM THE JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS

SANKEI, THE SANKEI.

ANSWER: YES.

ANSWER:FRIST, I DON'T PLAY DOMINOS, SECOND. I'M QUITE SURE THAT THOSE WHO EXPOUNDED THE DOMINO THEORY EXPOUNDED IT IN ORDER TO GET THINGS THROUGH CONGRESS. SECOND. I'M QUITE SURE.. OR RATHER, THIRD, I'M ALSO SURE THOSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. AND I. THEREFORE, AM CONVINCED. NEXT QUESTION..

QUESTION/ CHANAWA OF REUTERS. YOUR'RE GOING TO AMERICA AFTER THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, I BELIEVE.

ANSWER: YES, I AM.

QUESTION: WHAT WILL YOU BE TELLING PRESIDENT FORD ABOUT THE THAI ATTITUDE...

ANSWER: (LAUGHTER)

QUESTION.... AND INDOCHINA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD AMERICAN PRESENCE?

ANSWER: THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO TELL THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHAT IT THINKS WITHOUT MY INTERVENTION. NEXT QUESTION.

QUESTION: WHAT WILL BE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES?

ANSWER: FROM TIME TO TIME, ONE GOES TO WASHINGTON TO MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT, WHO CHANGES FROM TIME TO TIME. THIS ONE HAS CHANGED FROM THE LAST PRESIDENT. CHANGED UNEXPECTEDLY IN AUGUST LAST YEAR. AND I THINK THE LOSS WAS NOT ONLY THE LOSS OF THE PRESIDENT. BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO WATERGATE ALSO WASHED AWAY THE POLICIES OF THE NIXON DOCTRINE.

QUESTION: AGAIN SIR...

ANSWER: NO, NO. PLEASE, YOUR

QUESTION: BY BEING EMPHATIC...

ANSWER: YOU ARE MAKING ME QUITE DETERMINED THAT YOU WILL ASK YOUR QUESTION IN TURN. SOMEBODY WHO HAS NOT ASKED ONE. PLEASE.

QUESTION:.... SIMON OF THE WASHINGTON POST. TWO WEEKS AGO, YOU SAID SOMETING TO THE EFFECT THAT THAILAND HAD TIME TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM BECAUSE FOLLOWING THE WAR.

ANSWER: NO, I DID NOT SAY THAT I THINK YOU OUGHT TO READ IT VERY CARE-FULLY. I SAID THAILAND HAD DONE NO HARM TO CHINA, AND THEREFORE IT'S EASIER TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CHINA THAN NORTH VIETNAM.

QUESTION: YOU ALSO SAID THAT UH.. THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD BE BUSY FOLLOWING THE WAR IN VIETNAM..

ANSWER: YES, I DID.

QUESTION... HEALING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS...

ANSWER: YES. INDEED.

QUESTION... THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ASSIST THE INSURGENCY IN THAILAND. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO BOTH AT THE SAME TIME?

ANSWER: I DID NOT SAY THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ASSIST. THE INSURGENCY AT THE SAME TIME WHAT I SAID WAS THEIR PREOCCUPATION SURELY MUST BE THE CONSOLIDATION OF THEIR POSITION BOTH IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THEIR INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA.

QUESTION: YOU THINK THEN. THAT THEY COULD ASSIST THE INSURGENCY
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ACTIVELY IN THAILAND, FOLLOWING THE WAR IN VIETNAM?

ANSWER: I THINK THEY COULD EASILY CONTINUE TO DO WHAT THEY'RE DOING AT THE MOMENT, WHILST FIGHTING A WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM.
NEXT QUESTION.

QUESTION: SUMALEE OF UPI WHAT DO YOU THINK... WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUR PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S IDEA AND PLAN OF THE U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL WITHIN ONE YEAR? BECAUSE, I REMEMBER A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, YOU SAID THAT IT'S ALSO A SAFETY FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA TO HAVE UNITED STATES TROOPS HERE IN THAILAND.

ANSWER. ONCE UPON A TIME , WHICH WAS 2 1/4 YEARS AGO, THERE WAS NO CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION WHICH SAYS THAT BOMBERS CANNOT BE USED IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. THE SITUATION HAS SINCE CHANGED SINCE AUGUST 1973. YOU ALSO KNOW THAT NO U.S. SOLDIER WILL EVER FIGHT A QUERRILLA ON MAINLAND ASIA. SO, AS I HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY IN NEW ZEALAND, YOU MIGHT AS WELL MAKE A VIRTUE OUT OF A NECESSARY CHANGE OF POSTURE.

QUESTION: WILL YOU ACCEPT AN AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN

SINGAPORE?

ANSWER: NO. WE... YOU HAVE ASKED ONE ALREADY. CAN YOU...
I DON'T NEED IT, BY THE WAY. FOR THE VERY SAME REASONS THAT I
HAVE GIVEN THE YOUNG LADY HERE FROM UPI. LAST ONE...

QUESTION: PANSAK VINYARAT, THAI FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST. SIR...

ANSWER: WHAT'S THAT, SIR?

QUESTION: FREE-TKLANCE...

ANSWER: I SEE, SORRY.

QUESTION: IF YOU DON'T MIND.

ANSWER: NO, NO. I WONDERED. I THOUGH IT WAS SOMETHING FREE PRESS
OR WHATEVER. (LAUGHTER)

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QUESTION: MERELY FREE PAPERS. (LAUGHTER) SIR, IF THE THAI
GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING ABOUT WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS
FROM THAILAND, DO YOU THINK SINGAPORE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT SOME

OF THE AMERICAN..

ANSWER: I HAVE JUST EXPLAINED TO THE GENTLEMAN HERE IN THE MANDARIN
JACKET THAT FOR THE VERY REASON THAT I GAVE THE YOUNG LADY.
NAMELY THAT NO U.S. SOLDIER CAN FIGHT A QUERRILLA WAR, OR
WILL BE ALLOWED TO, AND NO U.S. BOMBER CAN BE USED AGAINST ANY
QUERRILLA INSURGENCY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL YOU TELL ME, WHAT IS THE VALUE OF
THE U.S. SOLDIER ON THE GROUND?

QUESTION: AREN'T YOU SELLING OIL TO THE SEVENTH FLEET IN YOUR
COUNTRY?

ANSWER: NO, I DON'T THINK I'M SELLING OIL TO THE SEVENTH
FLEET IN MY COUNTRY. THERE MAY BE SOME COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS
BETWEEN THE OIL COMPANIES AND THE U.S. NAVY LAST ONE,
ABSOLUTELY.

QUESTION: IN WELLINGTON, YOU SAID.....

ANSWER: YES. YOU'RE WELL READ: HA, HA, HA:

QUESTION... YOU SAID THAT SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD HAVE TO LIVE
WITH WHATEVER POLITICAL ACCOMODATION THAILAND MAY....

ANSWER: YES. I'M AFRAID...

QUESTION.. INDOCHINA.

ANSWER: I'M AFRAID I SAID THAT.

QUESTION:WOULD YOU LIKE TO ELABORATE? HAVE YOU GOT ANY BETTER
IDEA NOW OF WHAT THAT ACCOMODATION MIGHT BE?

ANSWER: I THINK THEY ARE STILL IN THE FORMULATIVE STAGES. THERE
ARE VARIOUS STRANDS OF THINKING. AND I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SAY
WHICH PARTICULAR SCHOOL OF THOUGH WILL, IN THE END. HAVE ITS
POLITICS ADOPTED. THANK YOU.
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